

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

LUIS A. ACEVEDO GARCIA, et al.

Plaintiff

vs.

HON. ROBERTO VERA MONROIG, et al.

Defendant

CIVIL NO. 97-2639 (JP)

*Received & Filed
in Open Court
10/11/01 af*

ORDER

12:53pm

On October 10, 2001, the Court engaged in the process of jury selection in this case. Because the magnitude of the same, which is comprised of 82 Plaintiffs, said process took all day. During the jury selection, all jurors had ample opportunity to object and inform the Court and the attorneys why they were unable or otherwise indisposed to serve on this jury panel. Many informed the Court of previous obligations, health reasons, and even political reasons as to why they could or should not serve on the panel. The Court at that time accepted or denied such requests on information as a basis to be excused.

At the end of the day, the jury panel was selected and sworn in. Juror María del Carmen González Velázquez, Juror Number 72, was one of them. This morning, the Court received a note from said juror asking the Court to excuse her from serving on this panel for several reasons. The first is that because of employment reasons, she cannot not serve. The second is that she is in therapy for a back condition and this would interfere with said therapy. The last reason cited by this juror was that her commitments to her children also prevent

*offer: by hand
in Chamber
10/11/01*

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CIVIL NO. 97-2639 (JP)

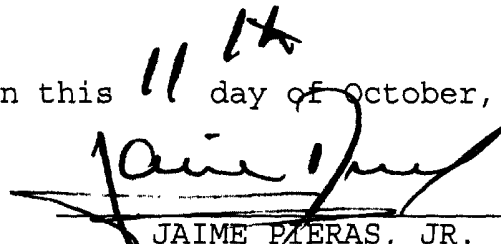
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her from participating in this case as a juror. The Court notes that at no point during the day did this juror object or otherwise present to the Court a reason as to why she could not serve, when all jurors with conflicts or problems did so.

The court is convinced that this is an afterthought and it will not accept said excuses. The Court, in its congested docket, cannot condone this behavior, where jurors, once they are selected, can simply object to being a juror and be dismissed. Being a juror is an obligation of every citizen, and the Court will not release Ms. González from that obligation. Therefore, her request is **DENIED**. This juror is further advised that she shall be subjected to serious sanctions if she does not serve as ordered by the Court. This case will be continued until tomorrow October 12, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. The Court expects you to be here.

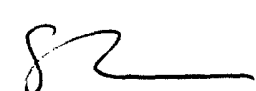
IT IS SO ORDERED.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 11th day of October, 2001.



JAIME PTERAS, JR.
U.S. SENIOR DISTRICT JUDGE

Served by hand by the
Clerk of the Court.



By: Courtroom Deputy Clerk